

things they've accomplished throughout these very special years.

Life at the communities of Appalachian Christian Village offers exceptional opportunities for new experiences, new friendships, and a new way of life.

Madam Speaker, this community has become one of the most favorable places to retire in the country in terms of the crime rate, cost-of-living, and access to excellent medical services, among other components.

I am so thankful to have this wonderful community in Washington County. Their presence is a tremendous contribution. I wish all of those at Appalachian Christian Village another successful 55 years.

I am proud to represent all at Appalachian Christian Village in Congress, and I will continue to protect the values of the constituency while I am in office.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed the following rollcall votes on July 13–16, 2009 due to a prior family commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall votes 533, 534, 535, 536, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, and “nay” on rollcall votes 530, 531, 532, & 537.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, this afternoon I had to miss rollcall votes on account of a dinner that I was attending in honor of a long-time friend, Dr. Norm Mayer. Dr. Mayer is the former Emergency Room Director for the Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is unfortunately battling Lou Gehrig's disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), and tonight's dinner is in honor of Dr. Mayer and his relentless battle against this debilitating disease. In addition, the dinner will also raise funds to help others in the Greensboro area, who are also battling against Lou Gehrig's disease.

WILKESON CENTENNIAL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Wilkeson, Washington, for reaching its centennial year in 2009.

Wilkeson is located on the timber-lined Carbon River at the doorstep of Mount Rainier. This small town of 450 residents has a rich economic history in timber and sandstone mining. In fact, the sandstone used to build the

Washington State Capitol came from Wilkeson. Samuel Wilkeson, a railroad pioneer and the City's namesake, called the forests of Mount Rainier and the Cascade Mountains the “most enchanting forests on the globe.” Most tellingly, the City's rich history is still visible: five properties in Wilkeson can be found on Washington's historical register. Mayor Janet Kepka should be proud of the City she leads.

I am proud to represent such a community and sincerely congratulate the City of Wilkeson on this tremendous achievement.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3170) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3170, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for 2010. This bill passed the House of Representatives on July 16, 2009, over my objection, by a vote of 219–208.

I opposed H.R. 3170 because the bill adopts the Obama Administration's proposal to allow publically funded abortion in the District of Columbia. The “Dornan Amendment,” which has been included annually in this appropriations bill since 1996, prevents the use of any congressionally appropriated funds for elective abortions in the District. H.R. 3170 repeals this prohibition and replaces it with a meaningless watered-down restriction that applies only to funds specifically contributed for “federal” program purposes. Because “federal” and “local” funds are commingled in the District, separating them is a mere book-keeping exercise. By simply designating the funds that pay for abortions as “local” funds, D.C. will be able to fund abortion on demand.

Stripping the Dornan Amendment from financial services appropriations bill is unacceptable. Our nation's capital already has one of the highest abortion rates in the country. Removing the Dornan Amendment from the bill will certainly increase those numbers, especially among teenagers.

President Obama has repeatedly vowed that his goal is to reduce the number of abortions in our country. I question how providing taxpayer funding for abortions will somehow reduce the number of abortions. More than 40% of all pregnancies in the District already end in abortion. Even the Guttmacher Institute, an organization founded by a division of Planned Parenthood, reports that when public funding is not available, 30% fewer women in the covered population have abortions. This means that 30% of babies whose mothers receive government subsidized health care survive because of abortion funding restrictions. No administration or lawmaker can support this policy change and still claim to support reducing abortions.

Washington, D.C. has a troubled history when it comes to abortion funding. In the

1980s, when D.C. funded abortion, the District had one of the most permissive policies in the nation. A full D.C. abortion funding ban was enacted in 1989. In 1994, when the funding ban was lifted, D.C. took \$1 million away from the Medical Charities fund, which was created to help AIDS patients, to instead pay for abortion. Then, the District needed additional funds to make up for the funds lost to abortion. After that, when the abortion funding ban was reinstated in 1996, the city continued to fund abortions in violation of the law for two more years.

Including the Dornan Amendment in the Financial Services appropriations bill is a logical means to help reduce abortions, a common cause of both the Republican and Democratic parties, and protect our most vulnerable citizens. Directing taxpayer dollars to fund abortions is a clear violation of many Americans' deeply held beliefs and is simply bad public policy. For this reason, I stand in opposition to H.R. 3170.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL PARENTS CORPS ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the National Parents Corps Act of 2009. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a community to protect a family.

Unfortunately today, American families in every corner of our country are working harder and longer hours to just make ends meet. They labor frantically to keep food on the table, gas in the tank, and a roof over their heads. As you can imagine the troubled economy makes it especially hard for parents to fully shepherd their children through those critical formative years. Study after study shows how vulnerable pre-teen and teenage young people are to developing life-long, harmful behaviors such as smoking and drug abuse.

The National Parents Corps Act of 2009 helps address this problem, by providing parents with the resources necessary to organize and protect their children in unique but proven methods. This legislation will create a national network of parent leaders who will educate and mobilize other parents in their children's schools. These full-time, professional parents will serve as liaisons between teachers, parents, and administrators to build much-needed safety nets among police, social workers and community based organizations in schools across our country.

The program has proven successful in both identifying and preventing dangerous behaviors and trends among their middle and high school children. Thousands of parents were recruited, and their collective efforts resulted in significant decreases in criminal activity, dropouts, and disciplinary problems in their schools and communities.

Madam Speaker, we must adapt our methods to better address the challenges facing American families. This legislation is a common-sense, modern way of building families and communities to support our most vital assets—our youth. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Parents Corps Act of 2009. It is an investment in the core of our society.